

SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
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OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Adaptive Reuse of Historic African American Church - Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is City of Houston, located at 2209 Emancipation Avenue Houston, TX 77003.

The funding would be used for development of a 1.4-acre property (2209 Emancipation Avenue) with an historic church, Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church, built in 1926 by African American architect William Sidney Pittman. The area is also one of Houston's state-certified Cultural Arts Districts. The City of Houston is seeking to reimagine this church, which sits at the gateway to Third Ward, into a cultural arts center to provide much needed flexible performance and community meeting space for the community. This project will be the cornerstone of a property that will eventually include affordable live work housing and street level commercial retail space for ongoing economic revitalization of Emancipation Avenue. The goal of project is to preserve, protect, inspire, and share the artistic and cultural legacy of the Historic Third Ward, which has enjoyed a long and transformative history of collaboration among artists, small business owners, and community members.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because This project is an innovative community-identified project that addresses a need and improves access for residents and visitors. This building is a historic building within a historic community and its adaptive reuse builds on the legacy of Black Houstonians. Protecting and utilizing this building honors the sacrifices of many and adds to the ongoing history of Third Ward.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sheila Jackson Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" being the most prominent.

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress